

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being fully anticipated by U.S. patent application publication no. 2002/0099829 (Richards, et al). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Richards, et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,834,297 (Peiffer, et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,635,088 (Hind, et al.). Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Richards, et al. in view of Peiffer, et al. The previous rejections of Claims 1, 11 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph were withdrawn.

In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, independent Claims 1, 6 and 11 are being amended. In particular, these claims are being amended to describe the feature, which had been described in Claim 19, of reducing selected ones of the recurring identifiers to one character. Claim 19, which is dependent from Claim 1, is being amended to remove this limitation.

For the reasons set forth below, Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. The Examiner is, thus, respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1,6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and the rejections of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21.

After a very careful review of the prior art, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable because that prior art does not disclose or suggest the feature, described in independent Claims 1, 6 and 11, of reducing the size of a web content file, in order to prepare that file for downloading over a

computer network, by identifying logic blocks that are unused in the file and removing these identified unused logic blocks.

Specifically, Richards, et al. discloses a filter proxy system for comprehensive content acceleration and automated content formatting. The disclosed system provides means and mechanisms for establishing, entering, updating and retrieving device and user profiles specification and templates in the respective database. These means and mechanisms also analyze the markup (ML) language while applying the specifications of the device and user profiles to determine what data formatting filters and/or compression filters are required. In addition, the disclosed system provides means and mechanisms for analyzing the ML language while applying the specifications of the device and user profiles to define an ML template or establish the best fit of an existing ML template to further refine the process of re-purposing, re-authoring and formatting the ML and its content for a specific device and user.

In the Office Action, the Examiner specifically cited paragraphs 26-28 and 92-108 of Richards, et al. as disclosing that scripts or information that is predetermined not to be needed or used by the client browser is removed from the document.

Applicants respectfully submit that Richards, et al. has been cited for more than it actually discloses.

Paragraphs 26-28 generally describe results that can be obtained with the system disclosed in Richards, et al. For instance, paragraph 26 discloses that the filter proxy system retrieves content on behalf of a requestor, re-purposes image content and its control code per rendering device, and then provides the requested content to the user. In this system, each request for URI content is initiated and downloaded by and to the filter proxy system on behalf

of the requestor, and the content is analyzed for image files that are re-purposed according to the device and user profiles.

While these paragraphs of Richards, et al. discuss re-purposing and compressing files, there is no teaching of identifying logic blocks that are unused in the file and removing these identified unused logic blocks.

Paragraphs 92-108 of Richards, et al. describe specific components, functions and filters that are incorporated into one embodiment of a filter proxy system. For example, paragraph 92 specifically identifies “ML re-authoring and editing filters and logic as required by pro-files and template parameters. Here too, though, there is no teaching of identifying logic blocks that are unused in the file and removing these identified unused logic blocks.

This feature - identifying logic blocks that are unused in the file and removing these identified unused logic blocks – is an important aspect of the present invention. More specifically, the instant invention provides methods and systems for reducing the size of files prior to being downloaded over computer networks. The size of the file can be reduced by removing pre-identified matter, including both renderable and non-renderable data, from the file. For example, unused logic blocks are removed, recurring identifiers are shortened, and duplicated logic blocks are consolidated.

Reducing the size of the file is not as easy as simply taking data out, though. Procedures need to be designed and put in place that can be used to determine what data to remove. For example, in order to remove unused logic blocks, the present invention first identifies logic blocks that are unused and then removes those unused blocks. The present invention effectively achieves this.

The other references of record, whether considered individually or in combination, also do not disclose or render obvious the above-discussed feature of the present invention.

For instance, Peiffer, et al. discloses a procedure for accelerating data transmission over a computer network, and, in particular, filtering data from a web resource to increase the speed at which this resource can be transmitted over a network. In this procedure, a portion of an original web resource is processed to form a size-optimized web resource having a smaller file size than the original web resource, and that size-optimized web resource is sent to the remote client.

Peiffer, et al, in the Abstract and in column 2, indicates that the data that are filtered may include whitespace, comments, hard returns, meta tags, keywords, or other data. With the Peiffer, et al. process, though, no determination is made as to whether a particular hard return is or is not used. Instead, with the procedure described in Peiffer, et al, it is assumed that certain ASCII characters are not rendered by a browser, and thus these characters are removed (Peiffer, et al, column 9, lines 11-20.).

Hinds, which was cited for the first time in the last Office Action, discloses procedures for reducing the sizes of files, and in particular, Extensible Markup Language (XML) and Document Type Definition (DTD) document files. This procedure may be used to reduce the size of tags, within either or both of XML and DTD files, and to compress attributes within tags.

Hinds, et al. was cited primarily for its disclosure that multiple character tags can be reduced to single characters.

It is important to emphasize that there is a significant difference between removing unused logic blocks, such as is done with the present invention, and removing other types of data, such as whitespaces and comments, such as are mentioned in Richards, et al and Peiffer, et

al. Specifically, these other types of data can be removed automatically wherever they are found; while logic blocks cannot – at least not without possibly significantly adversely affecting the way the data is shown or rendered. Before a logic block can be removed, it must first be determined, as mentioned above, whether the logic block is or is not unused.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 describe the above-discussed feature of this invention. Each of these claims describes the feature of identifying unused logic blocks in the web content file, and removing those identified, unused logic blocks from that file. Moreover, each of these claims, as presented herewith, positively sets forth the limitation that these unused logic blocks are functions that are in the file but not used.

Because of the above-discussed differences between Claims 1, 6 and 11 and the prior art, and because of the advantages associated with those differences, these Claims 1, 6 and 11 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claim 19 is dependent from Claim 1 and is allowable therewith; and Claim 20 is dependent from, and is allowable with Claim 6. Also, Claim 21 is dependent from, and is allowable with, Claim 11. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and the rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow Claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21.

In addition to the foregoing, Claims 1, 6 and 11 are herein being amended to describe the feature, previously described in Claim 19, of reducing selected ones of the recurring identifiers to one character. In the last Office Action, Hinds, et al. was specifically applied against Claim 19, and Applicants respectfully note that Hinds, et al. is not available as a reference, under 35 U.S.C. 103, to reject any of Claims 1, 6 or 11.

Hinds, et al. is not prior art as to the present application, for purposes of 35 U.S.C. 103, because Hinds, et al. and this application are assigned to the same corporation, IBM Corporation. Applicants submit that the filing of the present application on March 20, 2001, brings the subject application under the rubric of the amendments made to the Patent Law in the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. That Act, enacted November 29, 1999, amends 35 U.S.C. §103(c) such that subject matter developed by another person which qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) does not preclude patentability where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an application of assignment to the same person.

That this section applies to the instant application is established by the Guidelines concerning the implementation of changes to 35 U.S.C. §§102(g) and 103(c) published in the Official Gazette on April 11, 2000. Those Guidelines includes the statement that the amendment to 103(c) applies to all utility, design and plant patent applications filed on or after November 29, 1999, including continuing applications filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d), continued prosecution applications filed under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b) and reissues. In view of the filing of the present application on March 20, 2001, Applicants benefit from the statutory restraints imposed in the amendment to §103(c).

Hinds, et al. is, on its face, assigned to International Business Machines. The instant application is also assigned to International Business Machines. The Assignment of the instant application to International Business Machines by the Applicants of the present application was mailed March 20, 2001, to the USPTO for recording. The Assignment was recorded by the USPTO on March 20, 2001, at Reel 011645, Frame 0952.

U.S. Patent 6,635,088 to Hinds, et al. issued October 21, 2003. The present application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of March 20, 2001. As such, the outstanding rejection of Claim 19 of the present application applies the Hinds, et al. patent predicated upon its availability as a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in that this is the only subsection of 35 U.S.C. §102 whose requirements are met by this patent.

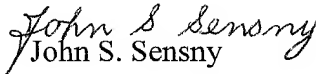
In view of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103(c), as amended November 29, 1999, which apply to the instant application, the Hinds, et al. reference cannot preclude patentability under 35 U.S.C. §103, the section upon which Claim 19 of the present application was been rejected.

As mentioned above, Claims 1, 6 and 11 are herein being amended to describe the feature, previously described in Claim 19, of reducing selected ones of the recurring identifiers to one character. In the last Office Action, Hinds, et al. was specifically applied against Claim 19, and Applicants respectfully note that Hinds, et al. is not available as a reference, under 35 U.S.C. 103, to reject any of Claims 1, 6 or 11.

For the reasons discussed above, the Examiner is asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103, second paragraph, and the rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner is, in addition, asked to reconsider and to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 and the rejection of Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103, and to allow claims 1, 6, 11 and 19-21.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' Attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


John S. Sensny
Registration No. 28,757
Attorney for Applicants

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza – Suite 300
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 7472-4343

JSS:jy